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SOME PREPAREDNESS FACTS

OUR Secretary of the Navy is authority for the statement, made before the present war, that "the naval appropriations in our country have doubled in a dozen years, and have gone up by leaps and bounds in other countries. If this mad rivalry in construction goes on the burden will become too heavy for any nation to bear." Within a few years the cost of battleships has risen from about \$5,000,000 each to \$20,000,000, and ship materials and munitions of war have advanced over 30 per cent.

But such facts are relatively unimportant compared with the additional fact that the navy of the United States is today superior to that of Germany or any other nation except that of Great Britain. The program now before us represents an increase in one year of an amount in excess of our total increase for the last fourteen years. Indeed, in a time of peace we propose an annual increase exceeding the increase by Germany during the whole fifteen years preceding the European war, and more than the combined increase of all the nations in the world during any one year in their history. The program proposes to increase in five years our naval appropriation forty times the increase by Germany during any similar period of years. More than this, it represents an amount \$200,000,000 in excess of the combined increase of all the nations of the world for a similar period of years. Why do our preparedness friends fail to tell us that for years we have been spending every year from \$20,000,000 to \$30,000,000 upon our navy in excess of the amount spent by Germany or any other nation except Great Britain?

The \$500,000,000 naval program, \$100,000,000 less than will be required to put it into effect, does not include what we are now spending, but, to the generous appropriation already made, that amount in addition. The army program, representing an increase of more than 100 per cent over our present appropriations for that branch of our service, calls also for a sum reaching nearly \$500,000,000 increase, that is to say, extra!

As pointed out by Mr. Kitchin, the United States is being asked to expend upon its army and navy more than any other nation of the world, in times of peace, ever expended upon its army and navy. Is it of no significance that, at the beginning of the European war, Germany was expending for past wars and preparedness for wars—that is to say, on its army and navy—55 per cent of the total amount of revenues collected; Japan, 45 per cent; Great Britain, 37 per cent; France, 35 per cent; the United States, 60 per cent?

Another group of facts not without their bearing is:

Private firms are receiving for 3.8-inch common shrapnel in excess of the cost when manufactured at

Government plants, \$9.56; for a 31-second combination fuse, a profit of \$4.08; for a 3-inch finished shrapnel case, a profit of \$1.31; for gun carriages for 3-inch rifles, \$882.22; caissons, \$615.43; order ammunition, \$979,840.00. Speaking of these figures, former Senator Robert M. La Follette rightfully calls them "outrageous."

But more disheartening than any of these facts is the fact that not one of our hysterical "preparedists" deigns ever to discuss the problems of concrete international policies out of which any rational program for preparedness must necessarily be developed. Not once do they apply their minds to the problem of international organization. Not once do they consider the interests of foreign nations. Not once do they seem to see the necessity for international adjustments, friendly compositions, arbitrations, judicial settlements. They not only do not tell us the truth about the details of their own housekeeping, but they insist upon a choleric interference with all who talk in terms of ordinary morals.

THE HYSTERIA OF IT

WE WOULD respectfully call the attention of our readers to the following facts:

The organ of the Navy League, *The Seven Seas*, in a recent number says: "The true militarist believes that pacifism is the masculine and humanitarianism is the feminine manifestation of national degeneracy. . . . World empire is the only logical and natural aim for a nation. . . . Land has always been the correct alimment for nations, and never till the arrival of the pacifist did gods or men ever witness a nation trying on straight-waistcoats as if they were life-preservers."

We are told that we must have "at least 2,000 aeroplanes ready to be sent into the air at a moment's notice," and that we must have 100,000 officers for our army. Mr. Charles Edward Russell wants a fort every ten miles along our borders, a big naval army on our Great Lakes, compulsory military service, and an army and navy equipment greater than any nation of the world. Rev. Dr. Charles A. Eaton calls this war "the greatest blessing that has fallen upon mankind since the German Reformation." Hudson Maxim considers that a small army and navy are "worse than no army and navy," and that "any one of the great European powers would be able to land a million men on our shores in a few weeks." He adds: "It is not unlikely that some of us will be forced to see wife or daughter or sweetheart namelessly maltreated to gratify the brutal lust of an invader, and lose our own life for a blow on the scoundrel's jaw, unless—aye, there's the rub—unless this whole country awakens to its danger and rises up as one